

Norway makes prison work – even for Breivik

How killers' jail might sound soft, but reoffending is far lower than in Britain

Alice Thomson



He could be out before he is 53. Under Norwegian law, Anders Behring Breivik could serve less than 21 years for killing at least 76 people first with his bomb and

dum-dum bullets. A submarine is still scouting the cold waters around Uleya for bodies. The killer, who only days before the action wrote: "Tested gear — exhausted!" has shown no remorse. If he is convicted, Breivik will go to Halden prison, which is made of wood and not concrete, and where the perimeter walls are hidden behind trees. The cells of Norway's highest security prison have en-suite bathrooms and barless windows. Breivik will be able to hone his muscles on the climbing wall and play volleyball with the female warders. This liberalism is all too much for the British, but the Norwegians aren't vengeful. They pride themselves on their tolerance. Jens Stoltenberg, the Prime Minister, called for "more democracy, more openness, more

humanity but not naively" the day after so many young Norwegians were killed. Mothers who read the last texts of their children, sent as they cowered behind rocks, haven't called for the death penalty. There was one moment when emotion got the better of some Norwegians and they surged towards the Volvo carrying Breivik to court. But a teacher who held back her pupils said: "We will not focus on revenge. Everyone has lost someone. Their grief is uncontrollable, but not their anger. As a child I spent summers in Norway with a family in a beautiful clapperboard house in Sandefjord, sailing round the waters, as a teenager I worked as a chambermaid in a hotel in Oslo. This gave me a lasting dislike of fishballs but taught me about personal responsibility and civility. Norwegians treat each other with exaggerated respect and dignity. Nordic crime novels are so striking because crime is so rare. Until now Norway had almost the lowest murder rate in the world and prison is a last resort: there are only 3,420 inmates in jail out of a population of five million. According to the Howard League, roughly 20 per cent of these are pre-trial detainees. Prison is about re-education, the premise being that no one offends without a reason. Hans Henrik Hoidal, the architect of Halden, which houses Norway's most dangerous prisoners, says that it "must

look as much like the outside world as possible" to help rehabilitation. Its governor, Are Hoidal, insists that half his staff are women to decrease aggression, and told *Time* magazine: "Many of the prisoners are in bad shape and we want to build them up, give them confidence through education and work and have them leave as better people." Teenagers are rarely incarcerated, children never. In 1994, just after the James Bulger murder, a little girl, Silje,

Norwegians' grief is uncontrollable, but not their anger

was beaten, stripped and left to die by two six-year-old classmates in Norway. As the age of criminal responsibility is 15, the boys returned to school within two weeks, received counselling and have been accepted back by their community. Even Silje's mother said that she didn't think it right to punish small children. In Britain, Jon Venables and Robert Thompson were jailed over the death of James Bulger — and Venables has since reoffended. Drug addicts rarely receive custodial sentences in Norway, but are put on rehabilitation programmes. It is considered uncivilised to hold women

in cells away from their families, so judges tend towards community punishment. Norway also plans to stop jailing people who don't pay fines. Those who do go to one of the fifty-two prisons are helped. At Bastøy inmates, including paedophiles and rapists, have to obtain professional qualifications and to work on the farm. But they can play tennis, ride and enter a ski-jump competition. British prison officers often have only eight weeks' training. In Norway it is two years.

Fewer than 20 per cent of prisoners reoffend, compared with more than 70 per cent in the UK. According to a 2008 White Paper by the Norwegian Labour Party: "The smaller the difference between life inside and outside the prison, the easier the transition from prison to freedom." The Norwegians will try their best to treat Breivik — only if he refuses to co-operate will judges consider extending his sentence. Norway's only other recent mass murderer, a nurse, Armin Nesset, served 23 years for killing 22 patients and was freed in 2004.

Nick Hardwick, Britain's Chief Inspector of Prisons, told me last year: "Jails are not just dustbins, but the inmates are treated as rubbish." Whenever an atrocity occurs here, we immediately call for inquiries and life sentences. The past few days show us not where Norway has gone wrong, but where it has got it right.

allowed to remain in Libya while taking no part in politics. Crucially, this approach has been backed by key European political leaders. Last week, Alain Juppé, the French Foreign Minister, said that "one of the scenarios effectively envisaged is that [Gaddafi] stays in Libya". William Hague added this week that "what happens to Gaddafi is ultimately a question for the Libyans. It is for the Libyan people to determine their own future."

Although this nuanced approach may seem a retreat from Nato's initial promise to remove Gaddafi swiftly from power, a negotiated end to the fighting makes sense. The rebels are no closer to toppling Gaddafi now than several months ago. And he has entrenched himself not only in the capital, Tripoli, but also in the hearts of many of the tribes in western Libya. Removing him by force would take many months and many lives.

There are important questions now about what form of justice Gaddafi and his associates should face. A warrant for him has been issued for war crimes by the International Criminal Court. As a Libyan, I want to see Gaddafi stand trial for his crimes against my people and to see him held to account. The priority for now, however, is to end the fighting and start building a free and democratic Libya. Once we have democracy, Libyans would be free to decide Gaddafi's fate themselves.

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Sweet 16 and loving every minute of it: the girl who had a change of heart

Simon de Bruxelles

A schoolgirl who went to court to claim the right to die only to change her mind and have a heart transplant has celebrated her 16th birthday by going bowling with friends and attending her high school prom.

Both those things seemed an impossible dream to Hannah Jones just two years ago. Doctors had given her just months to live as her heart had been irretrievably damaged by treatment for leukaemia when she was four.

Hannah, from Ross-on-Wye, had decided she could not face the prospect of more medical treatment and wanted to spend her last days with her family. When doctors at the hospital where she was being treated applied for a court order forcing her to undergo a heart transplant she fought and won.

Yesterday Hannah was looking forward to starting at sixth form, taking her driving test when she turns 18 and pursuing a career either in television or the law. She celebrated the end of her GCSEs by attending the Glastonbury festival, catching up on lost time.

She has made a dramatic recovery since undergoing the transplant. Although she has to take a cocktail of 12 pills a day she is able to run, ride her three ponies and enjoy a normal life. She believes her experience taught her a lot and does not regret the decision she made at 13 to say no to a new heart.

Her change of mind took place on her 14th birthday when her kidneys failed. At first she thought she had over-indulged but she soon realised it was a sign that the end was not far off and she no longer had anything to lose.

An air ambulance flew her to Great Ormond Street Hospital where there was a potentially fatal setback. The first heart was not a suitable match and it was days before another was found.

Now Hannah feels she has the life she never dreamt would be hers. "I was obviously ill, but just thought I'd overdone it on my birthday. Actually, it turned out it was my kidneys fail-

ing and that's when the reality of the situation hit home.

"I love my friends and family so much and I wanted to reach adulthood, have a family, have a career. I wasn't so sure any more that I was ready to leave all that behind."

She added: "Although people thought I was too young to decide, I'd been through so much I felt I had the right. But everyone's entitled to change their mind and now I'm so glad I did."

Her mother, Kirsty Jones, said the sight of her daughter in her prom dress brought tears to her eyes.

She said: "I'm so proud of Hannah.

Girl wins fight to turn down transplant



How The Times first reported Hannah's story in November 2008

When I saw her looking so beautiful in her dress I had a tear in my eye. We've had a rollercoaster of a journey and we are now looking forward to the next chapter."

The next chapter will be starting at college in September. Hannah is also allowed to dream of the future. She said: "My dream is to one day meet JLS and work either on TV or as a lawyer — but I haven't decided which yet. I feel more mature than my friends and see things differently. I don't care about hair-

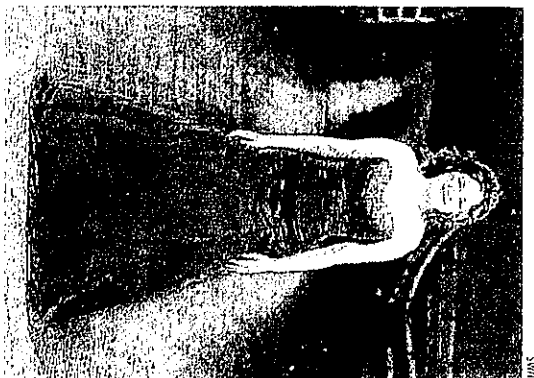
styles and make-up, I'm just happy I'm healthy. I'm up-

beat and I don't like to feel sad so I try not to dwell on it.

"Having a new heart means I've got so much energy. For the first time ever, I can do what all my friends are doing. I try not to think too much and just live for every minute; I mean I start college in September, how cool is that?"



Hannah Jones celebrates the 16th birthday she once thought she would never have. Right: all dressed up for her school prom. Now, following her successful heart swap operation, her ambitions are to meet the pop group JLS and to pass her driving test. Below, Hannah, then terminally ill, visits Euro Disney in 2000



The Times 27/7/11

Art and Remembrance

An Israeli orchestra's performance of Wagner testifies to civilisation's resilience

Since Kristallnacht in 1938, Israeli orchestras and their forebears have maintained a taboo on publicly performing Wagner's music. That unofficial ban was challenged by the Israel Chamber Orchestra last night when it played Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll* in Germany, at the Bayreuth Festival (see page 31). The emotional pain of Israelis confronted with Wagner's music is not only understandable but rational and informed. Yet the decision to perform it was justified.

Roberto Paternostro, the orchestra's musical director, explained that his intention was to

"divide the man from his art". That aim is admittedly difficult to realise in Wagner's case, and not only because the Nazis found inspiration in him and he ferociously denounced the Jews as "the born enemy of pure humanity". For, so far from being an idiosyncrasy in Wagner's character, anti-Semitism is enshrined in his art.

Wagner's tract *Das Judentum in der Musik* ("Jewishness in Music") is a poisonous rant. His opera *Parsifal* fuses Christian symbolism with the myth of the pure blood of Aryan manhood. When the Israeli mind rebels against Wagner, it does so

not out of philistinism but through understanding.

Even so, Paternostro's stance is noble. Wagner tests the principle that aesthetic and ethical standards are independent. Art has to be judged in its own terms, not by the standards of its creator. And Wagner's art is great. It articulates emotions, including forbidden feelings, with a depth that compares to Shakespeare. An Israeli orchestra's including Wagner in its repertoire instances the richness of the Jewish tradition of musical performance. But more, it testifies to the resilience of civilisation against a diseased philosophy.

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